

Report on Quarterly Project Progress (Q3-Y1) (Milestone No. 50)
Conflict Mitigation through Community Mediation Program

A handwritten signature in red ink, featuring a large, stylized 'M' and 'W' that form a continuous loop. The word 'Mandwi' is written in a smaller, cursive script across the middle of the signature.

Prepared by
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“Empowering Women”

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Abbreviations

CM	Conflict Management
CMCM	Conflict Mitigation through Community Mediation
CMCC	Community Mediation Coordination Committee
CDO	Communication and Documentation Officer
DLA	District Line Agencies
DDC	District Development Committee
GON	Government of Nepal
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MEO	Monitoring and Evaluation Officer
NA	Not Available
OCA	Organizational Capacity Assessment
PNGO	Partner Non Governmental Organization
PD	Program Director
P2P	People to People
RBA	Rapid Based Assessment
VDC	Village Development Committee

Report Verification

M#	Milestone	Description	Means of verification
50	Documentation of Quarterly Project Progress(Q3-Y1)	Quarterly information in the form of Calendar updates, Reports, and Meetings, conducted that track Project Activities and overall progress	<p>USAID's receipt of a quarterly progress report – due within 30 days of the last day of reporting quarter</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Pages: 4-5 • Content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> political/security context update, progress on OCAT, challenges, accomplishments, lessons learned, success stories, next quarter plan, summary performance indicator data •Annex: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ list of Milestone reports and dates delivered to USAID in that quarter ○ updated M&E indicator data ○at least 1 photo for each training

1. Political/Security Context Update

There is nothing to be alarmed in the political and security context and the local situation is stable and fruitful and apparently.

There is no any mass agitation and other kind of agitation is going on and no any political movement is continuing at this moment in the project districts. These days there is no any security challenge for program. All concerned stake holders are cooperative and in process of coordination about our program. Conflict Mitigation through Community Mediation (CMCM) Project is ensured to be successful. Hence, the mass of our target districts will be able to reap the benefits of CMCM Project. We are one deeply assured about this.

2. Progress on Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA)

The organization capacity assessment (OCA) was carried out by a consultant from 20-22nd June 2014. USIAD team also met with the board members and staff at the field office on 21st August 2014 and provided additional recommendations. Mandwi has several board meeting and staff meeting to strategize implementing those recommendations by this quarter. In addition, Mandwi opened a separate project account and started depositing staff salary in their account. Mandwi could not carry out partner nongovernmental organization (PNGOs_ OCA for this quarter to report and it is a major priority for the next quarter. Mandwi has developed its GESI strategy in this reporting period. It has been finalized now. For this gender and social inclusion (GESI) policy document of different governmental and nongovernmental organizations reviewed by GESI and conflict management (CM) specialist of Mandwi. She consulted with local project implementing partners also during the process. (Please find details in annex)

3. Challenges

- Our Communication and Documentation Officer resigned in December 2014. Mandwi has already published a vacancy announcement in both local and national newspaper. Until the post is fulfilled, the responsibilities of the Communication Officer have been partially shared among Monitoring Evaluation Officer (MEO), GESI and CM Specialist and Program Director (PD).
- Frequent changes of government officers. Mandwi has been encouraging local project implementing partners to coordinate with new district line agencies (DLAs) with project documents and reports once changed. Mandwi staffs also visited the district and coordinate with DLAs and requested for the appropriate support for the effective program implementation.
- 2 project village development committee (VDCs) are merged in a new Municipality according to the government decision. Mandwi especially coordinated and requested local partners Samagra in Siraha and Community Family Welfare Association (CFWA) in Dhanusha to coordinate with concerned Municipality to share and implement the program.

4. Accomplishments

Description	Achievement	Reasons for Deviation
Administration Start-up		
Activities -Partners' Capacity Assessed (Milestone 4)	-NA	- This is the carryover activity of 1 st Quarter. All PNGOs are engaged in community mediator selection and mediation training, OCA of PNGOs could not be accomplished in this quarter. It will be accomplished by next quarter.
Program Start-up and Coordination Phase		
-Support District Level Community Mediation Coordination Committees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Government of Nepal (GON) Coordination Established and VDCs Selected (Milestone 8)</i> <i>District Level Community Mediation Coordination Committee (CMCC)formed in each District</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While building close coordination with concerned VDCs, DDCs, community mediation coordination committee (CMCC), Mandwi and implementing partners shared the program objective in both formal and informal meeting with them and also discussed about the VDC selection criteria with district line agencies in project targeted districts i.e. Saptari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi and Rautahat. In total 24 VDCs were selected out of 36 VDCs (places where rapid based assessment-RBA was conducted) and recommended by concerned district development committee (DDC) for the conflict mitigation through community mediation (CMCM) program implementation. (For details see milestone report no 8 also) - NA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>CMCC formed in Saptari, Siraha, Sarlahi and Rautahat districts by December 2014. In Dhanusha and Mahottari it is still remaining due to time constrains of concerned DLAs. It will be accomplished by next quarter.</i>
Specific Objectives		

Description	Achievement	Reasons for Deviation
Objective 1. Establish and mobilize inclusive community mediation systems		
Activities		
1.1 Select and Train Community Mediators - <i>Community Mediators Selected (Milestone 17)</i>	-NA	In total 648 and 27 community mediators from each 24 project VDCs were selected by local project implementing partners. Those community mediators were trained 8 days basic mediation training by the trained masters' trainers in January 2015. So, these milestones will be reported in next quarter.
Community Mediators Trained(A)(Milestone 19)	-NA	
Community Mediators Trained(B)(Milestone 20)	-NA	
1.2 Community Mediators Centers Established and Services Provided		
Mediation Centers established in 12 VDCs in 3 Districts(A) (Milestone 21)	-NA	
Mediation Centers established in 12 VDCs in 3 Districts(A) (Milestone 22)	-NA	
Objective 2. Improve the relationship between marginalized groups and the local government		
Activities		
2.1 Establish Women and Youth Advocacy Platforms	- NA	-No reporting plan in this period

Description	Achievement	Reasons for Deviation
2.2 Conduct Women and Youth Advocacy Platform Interactions with Local Government	- NA	-No reporting plan in this period
Objective 3. Increase community awareness on conflict management and mitigation		
Activities 3.1 Conduct Community Mediation Radio Programs <i>Year 1 Radio Program produced (Milestone 38)</i> 3.2 Produce and Share Community Mediation Video Documentary 3.3 Create and Distribute Community Mediation Information and Education Materials	- NA - NA - NA	-All PNGOs were busy with community mediator selection, organizing basic mediation training for them in this quarter. It will be achieved by next quarter. --No reporting plan in this period --No reporting plan in this period
Monitoring and Evaluation		
Activities -M&E Framework established and Staff and Project Partners Trained (Milestone 47)	- NA	- This is the carryover activity of Q1-Y1. M&E framework is still under discussion with USAID. This milestone will be achieved once finalized and approved by USAID.

5. Lessons Learned

- **Gender Equality & Social Inclusion, Participation and Ownership**

Ensuring women's participation in village level networks is equally difficult like in other national and regional level positions. 75.91 percentage of women (40.58%) and marginalized communities participation was able to ensure due to the reservation made under selection criteria (33% female, 12% dalit, Muslim and Janjati)

6. Success Stories

District level Community Mediation Coordination Committee formed in Saptari district



A district level Community Mediation Coordination Committee-CMCC was formed in Saptari in presence of District Judge. Journals Shiva Hari Prasad Bhattarai and Shyam Sundar Yadav, Laxmi Thakur, Sabita Koirala, Uma Pokhrel, Anita Devkota from District Woman and Children Development Office and VDC Secretaries Satyanarayan Thakur, Shankar Kumar Yadav and Raj Kumar Jha from Narghi, Lalapatti, Bisahariya and Sakarpura are

the members of CMCC.

A coordination meeting was organized by Save the Saptari the “Conflict Mitigation through Community Mediation-CMCM “program Partner on 23rd November 2014 and the program as facilitated by Mandwi. The Judge of District Court, representatives from Bar Association, District Police Office, District Administration Office, Women and Children Development Office, District Health Office, District Livestock Office, District Development Office, District Agriculture Development Office, Small and Cottage Industries Office, VDC Secretaries, Local Peace Committee and Journalists actively participated in the meeting and expressed their views on community mediation. The main objective of the program was initiating a discussion of the roles and responsibilities of district stakeholders. The meeting concluded with a common understanding that the CMCM program activity will be monitored by the CMCC with feedback and coordination support.

Honorable Judge of Saptari District Court; Mr. Ram Prasad Adhikari made a significant statement in the meeting that the court is overburdened with the case load that includes a small scale community level disputes. He also made a noteworthy point about the importance of community level disputes to be resolved by the community participation. He highlighted how mediation process can bring win-win situation leading social harmony and informed other participants how court is promoting mediation as well. It is a success of the program to get appreciation from key people like the hon. Judge that helps receiving support from the other line agencies while implementing program.

Some major tasks that are included in next quarter plan are as follows:

Carry over activities

- *Partners' Capacity Assessment*
- *District Level Community Mediation Coordination Committee (CMCC) formation in each District*
- *Community Mediators Selection*
- *Develop M&E Framework and train Staff and Project Partners*

Planned activities

- CMCC Year 1 Review and Development of CMCC Year 2 District Level Action Plans
- Community Mediation Centers Offer Services
- 24 VDC Youth Advocacy Platforms Established and Action Plans Developed
- 24 Women Advocacy Platforms Established and Action Plans Developed
- Year 1 Radio Program Broadcasted
- Community Mediation Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials designed
- Documentation of Quarterly Project Progress (Q3-Y1)
- Monthly calendars submitted for Year 1

8. Summary Performance Indicator Data

1	Number of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving the conflict or the drivers of the conflict (Target 6 CMCC, 24 Mediation Center)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4 CMCCs formed and functional
2	Number of Groups Trained in Conflict Mediation/Resolution Skills or Consensus Building Techniques with USG-Assistance (Target 1 Master Training of Trainer-MTOT, 24 Basic Mediation Trainings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Helped developing pool of 38 Master Trainers through MTOT• 648 community mediators selected and trained basic mediation

9. Other APS Requirements

- **People to People**
- **Do No Harm**
- **Gender & Social Inclusion (GESI)**

The local project-implementing partners were trained in previous quarter and they have continuously considered the People to People, Do No Harm and Gender & Social Inclusion in project implementation including while selecting the community mediators.

The partners find it helpful those approaches. In the selection process, the partners brought key and other community people together, discussed the selection criteria to gain the community ownership and ensured a significant number of participation from women and marginalized group.

- **Local Engagement & Sustainability**

To ensure sustainability of the program, Mandwi and local partners have strategized over the program need of community ownership. As it is also mentioned above, the local level authorities and other community people were engaged since the beginning of the community mediators' selection process in this quarter. The community mediators who can serve as mediators after the CMCM program need community trust and confidence to provide long lasting service in their community.

- **Coordination**

Though the coordination is the key area of program effectiveness and efficiency, coordination and communication was made with concerned VDCs and community stakeholders in the project VDCs for the nomination, prioritization and selection of potential community mediators.

Annex

1. List of Milestone Reports and Dates Delivered to USAID

S.N.	Milestone Report	Date Delivered to USAID
1	Milestone 8	17 th December 2014

2. Updated M&E Indicator Data

S.N.	Indicators	Result	Contributing Factors
1	Percentage change in conflicts stemming from issues of inclusion and access		
2	Percentage change in target population that perceives a reduction in conflicts over resources stemming from issues of inclusion and access		
3	<i>Number of new groups or initiatives created through USG funding, dedicated to resolving the conflict or the drivers of the conflict (Target 6 CMCC, 24 Mediation Center)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 CMCCs formed and functional • 24 Mediation Centers established and offering mediation services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Functional and regular coordination by PNGOs with VDCs, district line agencies and stakeholders like Bar Association, district administration office (DAO), district police office (DPO), district court etc
4	Number of cases resolved by established mediation systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 cases resolved by established mediation systems out of 31 registered cases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disputes facilitated by the trained community mediators adopting 7 steps of community mediation
5	Percentage of established mediations systems assumed by local government at project close		
6	Number of advocacy platforms conducted for marginalized groups		
7	Percentage of annual VDC budget allocated to marginalized groups		
8	Number of beneficiaries reached through USG-assisted public information campaigns to support peaceful resolution of conflicts		
9	Percentage change in target population that can identify conflict mitigation and		

	management resources		
10	<i>Number of Groups Trained in Conflict Mediation/Resolution Skills or Consensus Building Techniques with USG-Assistance (Target 1 MTOT, 24 Basic Mediation Trainings)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 Master Trainers developed through MTOT • 648 community mediators selected and trained on basic mediation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Trainers mobilized by PNGOs in respected districts • Strictly follow the selection criteria of community mediators and focus on gender and inclusion, people to people (P2P), do no harm (DNH) strategies

3. Snaps



Basic Mediation Training Closing Ceremony at SiswaKataiyaMahottari



Basic Mediation Training Participants at SiswaKataiyaMahottari



Basic Mediation Training Trainer at SiswaKataiyaMahottari



Basic Mediation Training Participants at HarkathbaSarlahi



Basic Mediation Training Participants at HarkathbaSarlahi



Basic Mediation Training Participants at HarkathbaSarlahi



Basic Mediation Training Participants at
BharatpurDhanusha



Basic Mediation Training Participants at
BharatpurDhanusha

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